

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
 - a serial speech synthesizer; and
 - a computer system including a basic input output system (BIOS) configured to ~~cause the computer system to provide a translation from display information to a data pattern output via a serial port in the system for generating an audible output and~~, in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, cause the computer system to translate the information to a data pattern and provide the data pattern to the speech synthesizer;
 - the speech synthesizer coupled to the serial port and configured to reproduce the pattern with an audible output.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system includes a memory location, and wherein the BIOS is configured to cause the computer system to store a predefined value in the memory location in response to detecting the speech synthesizer.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system includes a memory location, and wherein the BIOS is configured to detect the speech synthesizer by detecting a predefined value stored in the memory location.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system includes a table that includes a plurality of strings and a plurality of codes, wherein the information is associated with one or more of the plurality of strings, and wherein the ~~signals are associated with one or more of the plurality of codes~~. BIOS causes one or more of the plurality of codes associated with the one or more plurality of strings to be provided to the speech synthesizer.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system includes a Speech Synthesis Interface Library table.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system includes a speech synthesis module configured to convert the information into the signals.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system includes the speech synthesizer.
10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer system includes a sound card, and wherein the sound card includes the speech synthesizer.
11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the audible outputs include sounds associated with a spoken language.
12. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system comprising:
 - including a basic input output system (BIOS);
 - displaying information associated with a pre-boot environment on a display associated with the computer system;
 - the BIOS providing a translation of the information to a data pattern output via a serial port in the system for generating an audible output; and
 - in response to detecting a serial speech synthesizer associated with the computer system and coupled to the serial port, providing the data pattern to the speech synthesizer, the speech synthesizer reproducing the pattern with one or more audible outputs associated with the information.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
 - in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, providing one or more signals associated with the information to the speech synthesizer; and
 - generating the one or more audible outputs in response to the one or more signals.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

storing a predefined value in a memory location on the computer system in response to detecting the speech synthesizer.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
detecting the speech synthesizer by detecting a predefined value in a memory location on the computer system.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Canceled)
18. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, generating the one or more audible outputs using a table stored on the computer system.
19. (Original) The method of claim 12; further comprising:
in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, generating the one or more audible outputs using a Speech Synthesis Interface Library table stored on the computer system.
20. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, generating the one or more audible outputs using a speech synthesis module stored on the computer system.
21. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a computer system including a basic input output system (BIOS) for:
displaying information associated with a pre-boot environment on a display associated with the computer system;
the BIOS providing a translation of the information to a data pattern output via a serial port in the system for generating an audible output; and
in response to detecting a serial speech synthesizer associated with the computer system and coupled to the serial port, providing the data pattern to the speech synthesizer, the speech synthesizer reproducing the pattern with one or more audible outputs associated with the information and without requiring optical scanning.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the computer system is for:
in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, providing one or more signals associated with the information to the speech synthesizer; and
generating the one or more audible outputs in response to the one or more signals.
23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the computer system is for:
storing a predefined value in a memory location on the computer system in response to detecting the speech synthesizer.
24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the computer system is for:
detecting the speech synthesizer by detecting a predefined value in a memory location on the computer system.
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the computer system is for:
in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, generating the one or more audible outputs using a table stored on the computer system.
28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the computer system is for:
in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, generating the one or more audible outputs using a Speech Synthesis Interface Library table stored on the computer system.
29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the computer system is for:
in response to detecting the speech synthesizer, generating the one or more audible outputs using a speech synthesis module stored on the computer system.